

Read-a-Thon Report

Teacher Guide · Solutions · Rubric

Grade 3 · All levels

Overview

Students run the school Read-a-Thon. They add and subtract page counts within 1,000, round totals to the nearest 10 and 100 for a news report, and use estimates to check answers.

Time: 2 class periods · **Product:** Read-a-Thon News Report
Standards: 3.NBT.A.1, 3.NBT.A.2, 3.OA.D.8
Prerequisite skills: Place value of hundreds, tens and ones (Grade 2); Adding and subtracting within 100

Learning targets

- I can round whole numbers to the nearest 10 and 100.
- I can add and subtract within 1,000 with place value strategies.
- I can estimate to check whether an answer is reasonable.

Timing and materials

- Day 1 (45 min): totals and differences (Parts 1–2) with base-ten blocks available.
- Day 2 (45 min): rounding and estimates (Part 3) and the news report.

Materials: Base-ten blocks (optional); Place-value chart (printable support page); Pencils. No accounts, paid products or student personal information are needed.



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The three versions

- Remedial: hints for a first step, partly filled tables, sentence frames and fewer open choices; the same learning targets.
- Standard: the full task set at grade level; students choose their strategies and models.
- Advanced: open design constraints, missing information, error analysis and a written justification; no hints.

All versions use the same context and learning targets, so groups can share and compare work.

Implementation notes

- Insist on an estimate before every exact calculation.
- Use a place-value chart for regrouping; check subtraction by adding.
- Advanced students find a missing weekly total and judge a classmate’s rounded report.
- Before Part 1, read the challenge aloud and ask students to restate the goal.
- Close with a gallery walk: each group explains one strategy.

Rubric

Learning target	4 Exceeds	3 Meets	2 Approaching	1 Beginning
I can round whole numbers to the nearest 10 and 100.	Correct and complete; explains how	Mostly correct	Partly correct	Not yet
I can add and subtract within 1,000 with place value strategies.	Correct and complete; explains how	Mostly correct	Partly correct	Not yet
I can estimate to check whether an answer is reasonable.	Correct and complete; explains how	Mostly correct	Partly correct	Not yet
I can explain my thinking with pictures, numbers and words.	Clear for every part	Clear for most parts	Some explanation	Little explanation
My read-a-thon news report is complete and matches my math.	Complete, neat, accurate	Complete	Partly complete	Not complete



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Solutions · Remedial KEY

Part 1: Weekly Pages

Room 12 recorded the pages it read.

Week	Pages read
Week 1	124
Week 2	213
Week 3	152

1. How many pages did Room 12 read in Weeks 1 and 2 together?
337 pages

2. How many pages in all three weeks?
489 pages

Part 2: Beat the Goal?

The class goal was 600 pages.

3. How many more pages are needed to reach the goal (or how many over the goal)?
111 pages

4. Room 14 read 412 pages. How many more pages did Room 12 read than Room 14?
77 pages



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Part 3: News Report Numbers

A newspaper uses rounded numbers.

5. Round Room 12’s total to the nearest 10.

490

6. Round Room 12’s total to the nearest 100.

500

7. Estimate the total for both rooms by rounding to the nearest 100. Is your exact sum reasonable?

500 + 400 = 900; exact 901 is close, so it is reasonable.

Part 4: Write the Report

Write 3 sentences for the school news with one exact number, one rounded number and one comparison.

8. Your report.

Answers vary; numbers must match the work above.

Extension

Room 16 read 1,000 pages minus 368 pages. How many is that? Round it to the nearest 100.

632 pages; about 600



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Solutions · Standard KEY

Part 1: Weekly Pages

Room 12 recorded the pages it read.

Week	Pages read
Week 1	236
Week 2	318
Week 3	287

1. How many pages did Room 12 read in Weeks 1 and 2 together?
554 pages

2. How many pages in all three weeks?
841 pages

Part 2: Beat the Goal?

The class goal was 950 pages.

3. How many more pages are needed to reach the goal (or how many over the goal)?
109 pages

4. Room 14 read 685 pages. How many more pages did Room 12 read than Room 14?
156 pages



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Part 3: News Report Numbers

A newspaper uses rounded numbers.

5. Round Room 12’s total to the nearest 10.

840

6. Round Room 12’s total to the nearest 100.

800

7. Estimate the total for both rooms by rounding to the nearest 100. Is your exact sum reasonable?

800 + 700 = 1500; exact 1526 is close, so it is reasonable.

Part 4: Write the Report

Write 3 sentences for the school news with one exact number, one rounded number and one comparison.

8. Your report.

Answers vary; numbers must match the work above.

Extension

Room 16 read 1,000 pages minus 368 pages. How many is that? Round it to the nearest 100.

632 pages; about 600



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Solutions · Advanced KEY

Part 1: Weekly Pages

Room 12 recorded the pages it read. The three-week total was 891 pages.

Week	Pages read
Week 1	348
Week 2	276
Week 3	?

1. How many pages did Room 12 read in Weeks 1 and 2 together?
624 pages

2. How many pages were read in Week 3?
267 pages

Part 2: Beat the Goal?

The class goal was 1000 pages.

3. How many more pages are needed to reach the goal (or how many over the goal)?
109 pages

4. Room 14 read 734 pages. How many more pages did Room 12 read than Room 14?
157 pages



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Part 3: News Report Numbers

A newspaper uses rounded numbers.

5. Round Room 12’s total to the nearest 10.

890

6. Round Room 12’s total to the nearest 100.

900

7. Estimate the total for both rooms by rounding to the nearest 100. Is your exact sum reasonable?

900 + 700 = 1600; exact 1625 is close, so it is reasonable.

Part 4: Check the Reporter

A reporter wrote: “Room 12 read about 800 pages, 300 more than Room 14.”

8. Is “about 800” correct to the nearest 100? Explain.

No. 891 rounds to 900.

9. Is “300 more” reasonable? Use exact numbers and estimates.

Exact: 891 − 734 = 157, about 200; so 300 is not reasonable.

Extension

Room 16 read 1,000 pages minus 368 pages. How many is that? Round it to the nearest 100.

632 pages; about 600